

Our Town

January/February 2014

TOWN of WAKE FOREST

Town of Wake Forest
301 S. Brooks Street
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-435-9400

www.wakeforestnc.gov

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Raleigh, NC
Permit #722

POSTAL CUSTOMER



JOE MARTINSON

Last year's Mardi Gras Street Festival attracted costumed revelers to downtown Wake Forest.

RENAISSANCE BALL

Evening event will cap off this year's Mardi Gras festivities

Plans are underway for a fun-filled day in downtown Wake Forest for both children and adults during the second annual Wake Forest Mardi Gras on Saturday, March 1. In addition to the street festival, the town will host a black-tie Renaissance Ball in the new Wake Forest Renaissance Centre.

The street festival will feature live music and special performances, face painting and a children's parade. There will also be a King and Queen Costume Contest and other fun activities for the young and the young at heart.

The day-long festivities will conclude with a sensational evening of music and dancing during the Mardi Gras Renaissance Ball.



Attire is black-tie optional, but Mardi Gras masks are encouraged, so here's your chance to come out dressed to impress.

Set to begin at 7 p.m., the Renaissance Ball will include dinner, a cash bar, live entertainment and dancing. Tickets are \$55 per person and can be purchased at wakeforestnc.gov/events-tickets.aspx or at Wake Forest Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks St. Please note that a convenience fee applies to all ticket purchases made online. Proceeds from the masked ball will be used to support arts programming at the center.

Visit wakeforestnc.gov/wake-forest-mardi-gras.aspx for more information or call 919-435-9415.

News highlights

What Do You Think, Wake Forest? » There's still time to offer suggestions about future improvements to E. Carroll Joyner Park on our online citizen forum. Go to wakeforestnc.gov/what-do-you-think-wake-forest.aspx

and tell us the specific features you would like to see added at Joyner Park and share any other general parks and recreation improvements that you recommend.

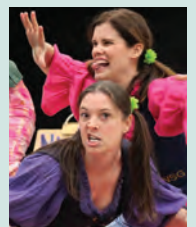
The Town of Wake Forest launched "What Do You Think, Wake Forest?" to give residents the opportunity to share their opinions concerning Wake Forest. The insights provided will offer town leaders a sense of what the community thinks about specific topics and items of interest.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day » Town hall and all administrative offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Garbage and recycling will be collected as usual.



View the town's photo gallery » Pictures from the opening of the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre and other events can be viewed at wakeforestnc.gov/photo-gallery.aspx. Pictures are also posted on the Town of Wake Forest Facebook page. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to "like" your town on Facebook!



TOWN of
WAKE FOREST

Proud to be a Tree City
Community for 34 years



Achieving the goals set forth by the Open Space and Greenways Plan

FINISHING What We Started

In 2014, the citizens of Wake Forest will be asked to vote on a bond referendum. If the referendum is approved, the town will be able to issue bonds to help pay for the next phase of E. Carroll Joyner Park. Funding will also be used for development of the town's greenway system, sidewalk construction and roadway enhancements.

Over the past decade, the town has made tremendous strides in greenway development as evidenced by the fact Wake Forest now has almost eight miles of paved trails. Still, the master plan calls for 50 more miles of trails that will eventually link together all the various segments. By adding the missing pieces, residents will enjoy the full benefits of a connected network of trails.

What this means is that you could hop on a bike in downtown Wake Forest and ride to Clayton, or Crabtree Valley Mall, or the NC Museum of Art—entirely on the greenway. If you're ambitious, connecting to regional trails will take you much, much farther. Wake Forest is uniquely positioned in that our greenway system intersects with three major trails: the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, the Capital Greenway Trail and the East Coast Greenway.

Wake Forest greenways will offer connections to the **Mountains-to-Sea Trail** which extends from Asheville to the Outer Banks.

Why are greenways important for Wake Forest? Greenways bring positive changes to communities. These benefits have been documented in numerous studies from Miami, Florida to Portland, Oregon:

- **Health and Wellness.** By providing residents with a place to exercise, greenways contribute to a healthy community and help reduce medical costs.

- **Transportation Alternative.** Greenways provide an alternative to car travel reducing traffic, fuel consumption and vehicle emissions.

- **Ties Community Together.** Greenways connect neighborhoods with other destinations creating livable communities.

- **Enhances Property Values.** A study by AECOM found that the annual effective premium in property values is between 0.12 and 0.27 percent. The study was conducted on the Miami-Dade County Trail. In Apex, developers of Shepherd's Vineyard added \$5,000 to the price of 40 homes adjacent to the regional greenway. Those homes were the first to sell.*

- **Connection to Nature.** Residents gain a place to view and connect with the natural world.

- **Provides Place for Recreation.** Greenways are an accessible resource for people of all ages, income levels and abilities—even pets are welcome!
- **Environmental Classroom.** Local schools and educational partners use the greenways for hands-on instruction.

- **Outdoor Venue for Community Groups.** Organizations use the greenways for races, events and for community service projects.

- **Creates a Wildlife Corridor.** Undisturbed vegetation around greenways provides a habitat for wildlife.

- **Car-free Recreation.** Residents have a place to ride, walk, run and skate without encountering cars.

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility

To fund greenway projects, the town actively pursues grants and partnerships. Because of this diligence, the town's out-of-pocket expense is only a fraction of the total costs associated with greenway construction.

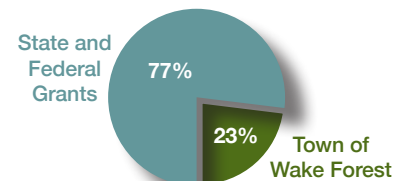
Wake Forest has earned and maintained a AAA bond rating—the highest possible credit rating—because of its fiscal responsibility and healthy position for growth. With the population expected to grow in the coming years, the town's increased revenue may offset the cost of the bonds without having to raise taxes.

With growth in our future, now's the time for us to finish what we started.

—WAKE FOREST
GREENWAYS ADVISORY BOARD

What is the town's share in the costs?

A majority of our greenway development costs are paid through federal and state grants. The town has been awarded these dollars due to our excellent greenway development program and bond rating.



Percentages shown are based on total project costs for the Smith & Sanford Creek Greenway, Dunn Creek Greenway, Downtown Connector and the Crenshaw multi-use path.

At your service



“Home Grown Power” video earns APPA’s 2013 Audience Choice Award

A video tribute to Wake Forest Power’s linemen and line workers everywhere earned the 2013 Audience Choice Award at the American Public Power Association’s annual Customer Connections Conference in Portland, Oregon.

The Audience Choice Award is voted on by conference attendees each year during “The Year in Public Power TV Commercials” reception. Wake Forest Power’s video titled “Home Grown Power” received the most votes from among 10 submissions, including entries by Santee Cooper, Electricities of NC and Nebraska Public Power District.

Produced by the Town of Wake Forest in partnership with Kino Mountain Productions, the video highlights the commitment to safety and training required to be a lineman.

“This project was extremely rewarding as it not only shows the tremendous commitment to safety and training necessary to perform the job, but it also offers a personal look at these guys who are often called upon to leave their families in the middle of the night to get our power back on,” said Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree.

“Home Grown Power” airs daily on Wake Forest TV 10 at 8:20 a.m., 12:20 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. It may also be viewed online at wakeforestnc.gov/linemans-video.aspx.

“Wake Forest Postcards from the Past” 2014 calendars now on sale

The Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission’s 2014 fundraising calendar, “Wake Forest Postcards from the Past,” is now available for purchase for \$15 each at town hall. The calendars are also sold online at wakeforestnc.gov/marketplace.aspx and at the following Wake Forest locations: The Cotton Company, Over the Falls, NC Specialty Shop, Storyteller’s Bookstore, Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, Wake Forest Coffee Company and Wake Forest Historical Museum.

Available for viewing at wakeforestnc.gov/postcards-from-the-past-2014-calendar.aspx, the calendar includes an array of historic postcards from former town

commissioner Frank Drake’s personal collection. Jennifer and Sandy Smart and the Wake Forest Historical Museum also contributed postcards.

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will be used to renovate and maintain the Ailey Young House—an HPC project. For more information about the Ailey Young House, visit wakeforestnc.gov/ailey-young-house.aspx.

Richland Creek stream restoration underway

Town crews have been working on the stream restoration of the Richland Creek Greenway. The work is an important first step towards reopening the greenway.

The town announced the closure of the Richland Creek Greenway in September after a thorough inspection revealed a rapid increase in creek erosion along the trail caused by heavy rains. Due to safety risks associated with the stream bank erosion and greenway undermining, the town chose to close the greenway until the stream bank could be stabilized and the trail realigned to ensure its safe use.

Efforts to realign the trail are expected to begin early this year and the town anticipates reopening the greenway this summer.

For more information, contact Assistant Town Engineer Holly Miller at 919-435-9443 or hmiller@wakeforestnc.gov.

For information about the greenway system, visit wakeforestnc.gov/residents-parksrecreation_greenways.aspx.



2014 Wake Forest Postcards from the Past

“Third Best Place for Job Seekers” NERDWALLET, 2013 “Ninth Best Town for Young Families in NC” NERDWALLET, 2013

Honor your beloved ancestors

Do you have loved ones buried in the Wake Forest Cemetery? If so, we need your help in honoring them at the next Historic Wake Forest Cemetery Walking Tour.

This town-sponsored annual event is held each year on the second Saturday in May and continues to grow in scope and content. Visitors to the tour overwhelmingly say the most compelling aspect of the event is hearing stories about the people who made

Wake Forest what it is today.

The Wake Forest Cemetery Advisory Board would like to include the personal histories of unrepresented families to broaden the depth of this increasingly popular event.

Contact Betty Pearce at 919-435-9570 or bpearce@wakeforestnc.gov. Highlights from last year’s tour are available at wakeforestnc.gov/cemeterytour.aspx.





Elise Kahl, an interpretive artist with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, helps children identify trees by examining leaves at E. Carroll Joyner Park.



Children can pick up themed brochures at Joyner Park near the information kiosk. After they complete the short activity in the brochure, they can log on to **kidsinparks.com** and earn prizes.

The Wake Forest Parks and Recreation Department was awarded the Kids in Parks TRACK Trails Grant and was one of only 10 in central North Carolina chosen to receive the grant.

An initiative of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, the Kids in Parks program works with partners throughout the country to promote children's health and the health of our parks by increasing physical activity and engaging families in outdoor adventures that foster a meaningful connection to the natural and cultural world.

Kids in Parks began through a need to combat two common ailments facing today's young people: childhood obesity and nature deficit disorder. Now, through a generous grant by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, the TRACK Trails program is partnering with the NCRPA to spread a network of trails across North Carolina, one region at a time.

For more information about TRACK Trails, visit **wakeforestnc.gov/track-trails.aspx** or contact Urban Forester Evan Keto at 919-435-9565 or **eketo@wakeforestnc.gov**.



KIDS in PARKS

New program encourages children to explore nature

The Town of Wake Forest recently introduced the new Kids in Parks TRACK Trails program at E. Carroll Joyner Park, 701 Harris Road.

Kids in Parks provides a network of self-guided, kid-friendly hiking trails, called TRACK Trails, that connect various public lands in an attempt to get kids "unplugged," outdoors and reconnected with nature.

Each TRACK Trail provides a series of brochure-led quests designed to turn an ordinary hike into a fun-filled adventure. Each TRACK Trail location is linked through the Kids in Parks website at **kidsinparks.com**. Kids who participate in the program and register their hikes on the website earn incentives designed to keep them motivated to explore nature.

Apply now for Meet in the Street

Here's your chance to be a part of the 2014 Meet in the Street! The Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting applications for vendors, performers and downtown merchants for this popular community event. Applications are available online at **wakeforestnc.gov/meet-in-the-street.aspx** and at the Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. White St.

The 34th Annual Meet in the Street® festival will take place Saturday, May 3, in historic downtown Wake Forest. For sponsorship opportunities or to provide musical performances on the main stage, contact Corey Hutcherson at **corey@wakeforestchamber.org**.

Volunteers are also needed throughout the day of the event. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Deborah Gonzales at **wfmeetinthestreet@gmail.com**.



NC DOT bridge replacement projects

The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has announced plans to improve four bridges in Wake Forest, one on Purnell Road that spans Horse Creek, another on West Oak Avenue that spans Richland Creek, one on Rogers Road that spans Smith Creek, and another on Forestville Road that spans Sanford Creek.

Two bridges, one on Purnell Road and another on West Oak Avenue, are scheduled to be replaced as part of the town's planned transportation projects in 2014. The Purnell Road bridge will be completed by the spring of 2014. The Town of Wake Forest has plans to extend the Richland Creek Greenway when funding is available. The West Oak Avenue bridge will be rebuilt by

the summer of 2014 to include a pedestrian underpass that will provide a critical link for the greenway project. Building the pedestrian underpass now as part of the bridge project will save the town money in the future.

By the summer of 2015, contractors will replace the existing two lane bridge on Rogers Road with a five lane bridge. The new bridge is expected to improve capacity and safety and relieve the bottlenecks that occur in the area during school rush hours. The bridge on Forestville Road is scheduled to be replaced by the summer of 2016.

For more details and to view all upcoming transportation projects, visit wakeforestnc.gov/transportationmap.aspx.

Volunteers sought for Adopt-A-Trail program

Nature-minded individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a section of the town's greenway system. To adopt a trail, groups or individuals agree to pick up litter, debris and loose brush at least four times a year in the adopted trail section to help keep the trails attractive, clean and safe.

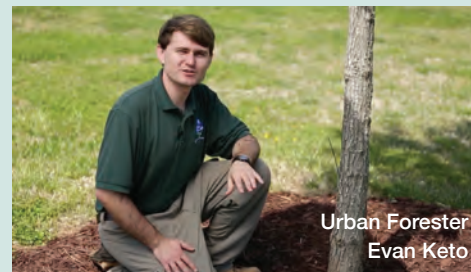
Groups and individuals may also participate in a number of enhancement projects designed to improve the beauty

or functionality of the town's greenways. To view a list of approved enhancement projects, visit wakeforestnc.gov/residents-adoptatrail_enhancements.aspx.

Assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis, but a trail section must be adopted for one year, renewable annually upon approval by the parks and recreation director.

Volunteers who adopt a section of trail will receive instruction in trail maintenance from town staff. The town will provide trash bags, gloves, safety vests, shovels, rakes and free pick-up of the collected trash.

Anyone with an interest in trails and nature is encouraged to participate. For more information, visit wakeforestnc.gov/residents-adoptatrail.aspx or contact Senior Planner Candace Davis at cdavis@wakeforestnc.gov or 919-435-9513.



Urban Forester
Evan Keto

WAKE FOREST 411 VIDEO SERIES

The Right Way to Mulch Your Tree

Mulching can be one of the best things you do for a tree if it's done correctly.

- Make sure there is no mulch against the base of the tree. Mulch against the base of the tree can cause termites and fungus that can weaken and kill the tree.

- Make sure that mulch is pulled back at least three inches in all directions from the trunk. Keep the mulch less than three inches deep—any deeper and the roots will have difficulty finding air and nutrients.

- The mulched area should be at least six feet wide to keep mowers and trimmers away from the base of the tree.

Watch this and other Wake Forest 411 videos at wakeforestnc.gov. New videos are added regularly.

Nominations sought for Green Medal Awards of Excellence

The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Board is requesting nominations for the 2014 Green Medal Awards of Excellence. The awards recognize individuals, groups and businesses that promote good environmental stewardship and that demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the town's urban forest. Nomination forms are available at wakeforestnc.gov/government-urbanforestryboard.aspx and at town hall. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31.



"Second Best City in North Carolina" MOVOTO REAL ESTATE, 2013

Flaherty Open House
Join the Parks & Recreation
Department at the Flaherty
Park Community Center,
1226 N. White St., for an
open house Friday, Jan. 24,
from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Program instructors will
offer demonstrations and
will answer questions about
upcoming classes.

Town seeks input from cyclists

The town is preparing a bicycling brochure and would like to hear about your perceptions of riding in Wake Forest. Any level of rider or want-to-be rider is encouraged to participate by offering feedback through our online survey.

Go to wakeforestnc.gov/bicycles.aspx for a link to the survey questions. Participants have until Friday, Jan. 31 to complete the survey. We will use the results to tailor the information that is provided on the cycling brochure to be published later this year.





Newly-elected Commissioner Jim Thompson was sworn into office at Wake Forest Town Hall in November. Thompson joins Commissioner Zachary Donahue, Commissioner Greg Harrington, Commissioner Anne Hines and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett who was reelected to a third term to the Wake Forest Board of Commissioners. Mayor Vivian Jones, who is beginning her fourth term, was also sworn in.

Glad You Asked

TOWN OF WAKE FOREST Q&A

Q: What does the town do with all the leaves that are collected by the vacuum trucks?

A: Last year the town collected 6,750 cubic yards (1,350 tons) of leaves during loose leaf collection season from October to March. Leaves are taken to Rowland Landfill and Novozymes for recycling into organic matter and they are also offered to residents for free.

To request free leaf mulch, call the Public Works Department at 919-435-9570. Each delivery is about 20 cubic yards. Please note that this service is offered to citizens on an as-call basis and that there may be a waiting list.

SAVE THE DATE

2014 State of the Town Address & Dinner

Mayor Vivian Jones will deliver her 2014 State of the Town Address on Monday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m., during the Sixth Annual State of the Town Address and Dinner. Presented by the Wake Forest Rotary Club, the event will be held at the Wake Forest Renaissance Centre, 405 S. Brooks St.

During her remarks, Mayor Jones will highlight the town's key accomplishments in 2013 and outline the goals Wake Forest will strive towards in 2014. Entertainment will be provided during the dinner portion of the program.

All area residents are invited to attend. Tickets are \$15 per person and will go on sale Tuesday, Jan. 21. Tickets can be purchased online at wakeforestnc.gov/marketplace.aspx. Tickets may also be purchased

at Wake Forest Town Hall with a credit card, cash or by check made payable to the Town of Wake Forest, and the Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. White St., with cash or by check only.

Mayor Jones' State of the Town Address will be recorded and replayed on Wake Forest TV 10 throughout March. It will also be available in streaming video on the town's website at wakeforestnc.gov.

For more information visit wakeforestnc.gov/2014-state-of-the-town.aspx or contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at 919-435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.



Wake Forest baseball, softball and T-ball registration: Feb. 3-28

Online registration for spring leagues will be available beginning Feb. 3 at wakeforestnc.gov/parksrecreation.aspx and at Wake Forest Town Hall, 301 S. Brooks St.

YOUR GOVERNMENT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

Third Tuesday | 7 pm
Town Hall Board Room

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

First Tuesday | 5:30 pm
Town Hall Board Room

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS

First Tuesday | 7:30 pm
Town Hall Board Room

Have agendas delivered directly to your inbox. Sign up at: www.wakeforestnc.gov/enotifier.aspx.

- Watch meetings live on WFTV 10.
- Watch meetings live or on-demand in streaming video: www.wakeforestnc.gov/government-board-of-commissioners.aspx.
- Watch re-broadcasts of meetings on WFTV 10 at 9 am, 3 pm and 9 pm. daily for up to two weeks after the meeting.

STAYING INFORMED

SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS

Subscribe to E-News and have the town's electronic newsletter delivered directly to your inbox each month. E-News subscribers also receive *The Week Ahead*, a weekly email publication that provides information about upcoming events, as well as E-Alerts offering urgent notifications and traffic alerts.

SIGN UP FOR E-NOTIFIER

E-Notifier alerts subscribers to the availability of Board of Commissioners and Planning Board meeting agendas, *Our Town*, and *RecConnect*. Subscribers also receive *New Businesses Coming to Wake Forest*.

Sign up for E-News and E-Notifier at:

www.wakeforestnc.gov/communications.aspx.



Our Town is published bi-monthly by the Town of Wake Forest Communications Department.

Public Information Officer

Bill Crabtree
919-435-9421
bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov



Jan/Feb 2014 Programming Schedule

Watch it live online

Anyone with internet access can watch WFTV 10 at wakeforestnc.gov/wftv-10.aspx. Residents that subscribe to Time-Warner Cable TV service receive the channel. The channel can be viewed on Digital Channel 97.5.

Focus on Wake Forest

daily, top of the hour

Home Grown Power

daily, 8:20 am, 12:20 pm, 7:20 pm

Wake Forest: The Most Rewarding Things

daily, 7 am, 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm

The Renaissance of Downtown Wake Forest

7:40 am, 8:40 am, 12:40 pm, 2:40 pm, 6:40 pm, 8:40 pm

Wake Forest History Museum's Women's Oral History

11:30 am, 5:30 pm, 11:30 pm

This Place Matters

daily, 7:30 am, 12:30 pm, 8:30 pm

Board of Commissioners Meeting

live, 3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm; rebroadcast daily 9 am, 3 pm, 9 pm

Board of Commissioners Work Session

live, 1st Tuesday, 5:30 pm

Planning Board Meeting

live, 1st Tuesday, 7:30 pm; rebroadcast for 2 weeks daily 9 am, 3 pm, 9 pm